

Sketches & Recitals

SHERIDAN'S TREVILLIAN RAID.

Incidents on That Expedition as Told by One of the 2d Cav. Boys.

Editor National Tribune: In looking over the National Tribune I was pleased with such a good account of Sheridan's cavalry raid toward Richmond, also to Trevillian Station, Va. I was in Gen. Wesley Merritt's Brigade, Torbert's Division. On the night of June 10, 1864, we encamped about three miles from Trevillian Station. We had started with two days' rations.

Hearty with good appetites, we soon devoured our rations. Many of our cavalry horses were hard riders, not in good flesh, with long limbs and long legs. Every movement of the hind legs would raise one up in the saddle, and it did not take long on a good trot to settle our few hardheads on the ground.

On that day our regiment had been in the rear, and you know, to be in

the rear of a few thousand cavalry was to be in a very barren country, with nothing but a few scattered farms on either side. Our officers had been unusually strict on foragers, but when I saw others eating, after feeding my horse, I started to look for something. It began to get dusk, and while I was standing in the road trying to decide which way to strike out a small crowd of about 12 men approached me.

One of our boys in Co. F, named McDermott, was captured in the morning. Brown and I got more interested in the man behind the tree, and forgot the fact that we were in a trap. I could just touch him with my foot. As I partly turned over and touched his head with my foot I found that he was dead. A ball from the man that Brown and I were firing at had penetrated his brain.

Gen. Custer had started early that morning out on road to our left. He had encountered difficulties that had been unforeseen. When Sheridan moved his other divisions forward we crowded the enemy back onto Custer so hard that for a time he was nearly surrounded, and had to abandon much of his captures.

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"Shorty" Steve, of 2d W. Va. Cav.

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Our regiment, the 2d W. Va. Cav., was recruited on the Ohio side of the river. On the 21st of May we passed into the war at the first drum beat and the three-months term, and stayed until the bugle sounded taps on the grave of the Confederate.

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At Columbia, S. C.

Editor National Tribune: In your issue of Jan. 5, 1911, David W. Wood says that many letters have been written by members of the 1st Cavalry Division to be the first troops to camp around the State House at Columbia; also from the 31st Ill., claiming they were first. He also mentions the 17th Wis. and the 31st Ill. One was at the new Capitol and the other at the old State House. In Sherman's "Memoirs" it is stated that the 1st Cavalry Division was the first to camp around the State House at Columbia, but I fall to find the 17th Wis. in the list. I also find that the 31st Ill. belonged to the 1st Cavalry Division, and the 17th Wis. belonged to the 1st Cavalry Division.

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A Creditable Record.

Cyrus C. Clark, 212 West Wayne Street, St. Louis, Mo., tells me that when the war broke out, and was a physician enjoying a practice which brought him \$5,000 a year. He enlisted April 15, 1861, in the 1st Missouri Cavalry, and was promoted to second lieutenant. He was wounded in the second campaign, and he reported with a company at Hartford, Conn., and was mustered into the 1st Conn. After a short time he was sent to the front, and was wounded in the battle of Antietam. He followed Lee up the Shenandoah Valley, and then to the mountains, and then to Fredericksburg, where all the company officers on duty were either killed or wounded. He was disabled for three months from a wound, when he was commissioned by President Lincoln as an Additional Paymaster, and reported for duty on the 1st of June, 1862. He was promoted to major, and was in the line of the Army of the Potomac, and in the winter of 1864 was detailed to take \$100,000 from Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fe to pay the troops in Texas. New Mexico, and he was continued on this duty until June, 1865, and was mustered out Nov. 1, 1865. He will be 81 years old April 17, 1911. He hopes that his record will be a credit to his service, and to give him a pension sufficient to support him and his old wife for the years they have to live.

Denial of the Constitution.

Editor National Tribune: The hotbed of Copperheadism in Iowa during the earlier days of the civil war was located in Keokuk County, and men who had held positions of trust under the Government were mainly responsible for the spread of the "Mahoney" theory. The first grand jury charged the rebels back quite a ways. Only the best horses could keep up. Only 15 or 20 were on the advance, and we were a sharp turn in the road and drew our horses down to a walk, expecting every moment that the enemy would charge on us. Suddenly the rebels were around the curve; then a whole body charged us. We turned our horses around and started back. As we came to a cut in the road one of our horses fell down and partly blocked the road. The rebels gained on us rapidly. I turned and saw one fellow was getting uncomfortably near me. He had his sabre raised, awaiting to strike. I threw myself forward on my horse's neck, and gouged him in the flank with my spur. He was not worth anything. I saw one of our men stood up and said: "Mahoney's theory is a lie. The Government is the only one in a moment or two we saw our second squadron near."

We drew our horses out on the bank as we did so. The rebels in the rear that were charging us could not see our support. They ran into those in front with such force as to dismount a number of them. We captured 15 in that scrimmage. Quite a number of our boys got severe saber cuts in their heads that laid them out some time. One young fellow ran up to me and said: "I'm a rebel, just as you are. Turned to give me orders to the second squadron and fired at him. We dared not shoot at our men stood up and said: "Mahoney's theory is a lie. The Government is the only one in a moment or two we saw our second squadron near."

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After this charge of the rebels we dismounted and formed a good, strong skirmish line. The road thus far ran thru timber on one side and bushes on the other, a few of us on the left side of the road, but the majority on the right. I was on the left side. A woven fence, partly up, ran along the road. It struck me that I might want to get out in a hurry, so I set my Sharp's carbine down beside a fair-sized tree, and caught the rails at a joint near the ground and heaved it over in the road. Just as I straightened up "spat" came a ball past my head into the black oak tree. I dropped down behind an old rotten log, and could see thru the bushes the rebels, about 100 yards in front, carrying rails. I had a good position, and must have been making splinters fly among those made. I could see but little more of them moving about. Orders came to move to the right. I crossed over the road some distance, and finding Sergeant Brown, of my company, we selected in our front a nice tree for our protection.

Both Sides Close Together. The firing was not heavy, but both lines were near each other. Brown and I had drawn the fire from a rebel behind a tree. He was a good shot, and made us lie close. Soon another

Major Gen. Wm. H. T. Walker, C. S. A.

Major Joseph B. Cunningham, Augusta, Ga., who was killed in the war, was a prominent lawyer, has written an excellent address which was delivered at the time of the unveiling of the monument to Major Wm. H. T. Walker, who was killed July 22, 1864, in the fierce fighting in front of Atlanta when Gen. Hood turned the flank of the Army of the Tennessee. Walker was the son of a former United States Senator from Georgia, graduated from West Point and was carried off to the front by the Confederates. He was a brave and gallant soldier, and his death was a great loss to the Union. He was a prominent lawyer, and his address was a valuable contribution to the history of the war.

Correcting Gen. Schofield. Thomas H. Shields, Second Lieutenant, 6th Ill. Cav., referring to Gen. Schofield's address, says that on Nov. 19, 1864, that he in person placed a company of infantry on the only crossroad around Whitaker's right, striking the line of the 1st Cavalry Division, and the 17th Wis. and the 31st Ill. One was at the new Capitol and the other at the old State House. In Sherman's "Memoirs" it is stated that the 1st Cavalry Division was the first to camp around the State House at Columbia, but I fall to find the 17th Wis. in the list. I also find that the 31st Ill. belonged to the 1st Cavalry Division, and the 17th Wis. belonged to the 1st Cavalry Division.

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PICKET SHOTS

From Alert Comrades Along the Whole Line.

At Cedar Creek.

Edward S. Roberts, 2d Conn. H. A., East Canaan, Conn., is angry at the soldiers who are doing the picket duty. He recalls the days when the country was in real peril, and as an illustration of how little the people know of what the soldiers were doing he speaks of an incident at Cedar Creek. He was then in Upton's Brigade of the Sixth Corps, and saw many times when the soldiers were doing the picket duty. He recalls the days when the country was in real peril, and as an illustration of how little the people know of what the soldiers were doing he speaks of an incident at Cedar Creek. He was then in Upton's Brigade of the Sixth Corps, and saw many times when the soldiers were doing the picket duty.

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